

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 JUSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03
CTME-00 AGR-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00
FRB-03 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 SS-15 STR-07 ITC-01 TRSE-00
ICA-11 SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01 DOE-15 SIL-01 /118 W
-----010287 031633Z /43

R 031150Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5170

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 3602

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETRD, DR
SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON LABOR STANDARDS

REF: STATE 136706

THE FOLLOWING ARE SPECIFIC RESPONSES TO INFORMATION REQUESTED
IN REFTTEL:

A. THE DR CONSTITUTION GUARANTEES QUOTE LABOR FREEDOM
UNQUOTE (LIBERTAD DE TRABAJO). THERE ARE NO SPECIFIC LEGAL
PROVISIONS REGARDING SLAVE, INDENTURED OR OTHER FORCED LABOR;
HOWEVER, TO EMBASSY'S KNOWLEDGE SUCH LABOR PRACTICES DO NOT
EXIST IN THE DR, INCLUDING IN EXPORT OR IMPORT SUBSTITUTING PRO-
DUCTION.

B. DR LAWS PROHIBIT EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN UNDER FOURTEEN
IN INDUSTRY AND TO OUR KNOWLEDGE CHILDREN OF THESE AGES ARE NOT
SO EMPLOYED. YOUNGER WORKERS OVER FOURTEEN YEARS OF AGE ENJOY
THE SAME LIMITED BENEFITS AS ADULTS IN THE WORK PLACE.

C. THE DR LABOR CODE STATES THAT INDUSTRIES SHOULD MAINTAIN
THE WORK PLACE IN SANITARY CONDITIONS AND OBSERVE ADEQUATE
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MEASURES TO PREVENT ACCIDENTS IN USE OF MATERIALS. LABOR SEC-
RETARIAT MAINTAINS INSPECTION SERVICE BUT ENFORCEMENT OF
STANDARDS APPEARS LIMITED. NO PSECIFIC REFERENCE IS MADE TO
WORKER EXPOSURE TO TOCIC SUBSTANCES. AMERICAN CONCERNS SUCH AS
ROSARIO ANDALCOA ADHERE TO U.S. STNDARDS OF REGULATING SAFETY
AT THE WORK PLACE.

D. AS A MEANS OF ATTRACTING FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN THE COUNTRY'S THREE INDUSTRIAL FREE ZONES IN LA ROMANA, SAN PEDRO DE MACORIS AND SANTIAGO, THE DR PASSED LAW NO. 81 IN NOVEMBER 1974, FIXING MINIMUM SALARIES FOR INDUSTRIAL FREE ZONE WORKERS AT FORTY CENTAVOS (RD\$0.40) AN HOUR (TEN CENTAVOS BELOW THE MINIMUM LEGAL INDUSTRIAL WAGE). SUBSEQUENTLY, THE FREE ZONE MINIMUM WAGE WAS RAISED TO FORTY-FIVE CENTAVOS. IN PRACTICE, THE FREE ZONE INDUSTRIES ARE NOW PAYING THE MINIMUM WAGE OR MORE TO ALL WORKERS. THE CONSTITUTION PROVIDES THE RIGHT TO STRIKE TO ALL WORKERS, ALTHOUGH UNDER DR LABOR CODE, ACHIEVING GOVERNMENT AUTHORIZATION FOR STRIKE IS DIFFICULT.

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
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TAGS: ETRD, DR
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